

(c) the steps Government have taken so far to make such families literate; and

(d) the number of illiterate muslim families and the amount of money allotted during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) According to the 2001 Census, out of 22 million Muslim households, 4 million households have one or more illiterate members. So far, 597 districts in States/Union Territories have been covered under various adult literacy programmes like Total Literacy Campaign, Post Literacy Programme and Continuing Education targeting the age-group of 15-35 years. In these programmes, all sections of the population including Muslims have been covered. However, no data is maintained on the community-wise coverage of beneficiaries.

The educational development programmes are individual oriented, funds are not allotted family-wise.

Modernization of Meteorological Department

*83. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to modernize the country's Meteorological Department to be able to provide agriculture related weather information which is crucial for optimal agricultural production, to farmers in all the 600 districts in the country;

(b) if so, whether the entire process will take about five-six years;

(c) if so, whether the system needs to be modernized and the basic structure will be ready by 2008;

(d) if so, the other plans for revamping the Meteorological Department; and

(e) to what extent it will be modernized?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

In order to provide improved agriculture related weather information to the farmers, Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed to set up integrated Agromet Advisory Service in the country. This will enable providing much improved weather based agricultural services at district levels in a more efficient and effective manner so as to benefit the farming community to the maximum possible extent.

(b) The entire scheme is planned for implementation in a phased manner during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The Ministry of Earth Sciences is giving a very high priority to the implementation of this proposal.

(c) During the first phase of the implementation of this project which is likely to commence during early part of Eleventh Five Year Plan, after obtaining the required approvals, action will be initiated for upgrading the basic infrastructure to provide improved services. This is likely to take about 2 years time.

(d) A detailed plan for modernization of observational system and forecasting system of the India Meteorological Department has been prepared.

(e) As a first priority, a comprehensive plan for a limited modernization of the department during next 2 years has been prepared. The agromet advisory will be extended upto district level.

Upgradation of facilities in higher education

*84. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has written to the States lagging in higher education with a view to help them to upgrade these facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the status of Orissa in the higher education survey that has been conducted for the purpose; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to help Orissa in the matter?